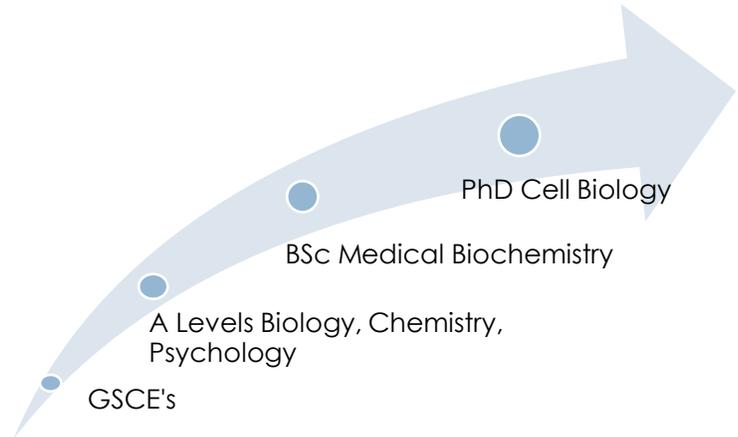




## Claire Smith

### Head of Operations Connected Health Cities

#### EDUCATION



#### WORK EXPERIENCE

##### The University of Manchester

- Post-doctoral research Associate – Life Sciences
- NWEH Operations Officer – Medical and Human Sciences
- Research Projects Manager- Centre for Health Informatics
- Head of Operations- Connected Health Cities

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##### Claire's Top tips

- Get some real experience in as many different areas of interest as possible- understanding what a job involves on a day to day basis really helps with deciding what to do!
- Focus on transferable skills like project management, communication, report writing, IT skills, which will be useful in a variety of settings
- It's perfectly fine not to have it all figured out – nobody does! Do your best and never be afraid to admit when you don't know something.

##### Interesting fact

- Claire loves exercise; particularly netball and was a member of the staff team for 6 years
- Claire is a sustainability champion promoting the green agenda is important!

#### PROFILE

My research career began by writing to lots of life science companies to ask for some work experience in the summer between my second and third year at University. I found myself spending the summer at a wound healing company called Renovo, which had spun out of the University of Manchester. I gained loads of invaluable experience of what a job in this space would be like and returned to my final year at University feeling like I understood where all the theory I was learning about came from as well as having an offer to complete a PhD with Renovo and The University of Manchester after I finished my degree.

After completing my PhD on cleft palate biology and a post-doc research project on oxidative stress in yeast I decided that the parts of my job which I loved and was best at was the management of research so I changed direction slightly, got a job in research operations and I have never looked back!

I love getting involved in planning big research projects at the grant application stage and of course post award. I am currently responsible for coordinating finances, contractual management, governance and progress reporting across a number of different organisations throughout the North of England. The role is challenging and varied which means I am always learning new things! Most importantly, I like to feel that my work is part of something that will ultimately help people and their health.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

 @clairepanes82  clairesmith



